

## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



882  
64

WISDOM IS COMMON SENSE TO AN UNCOMMON DEGREE

# THE REA LINEMAN

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

Vol. VII, No.2

FEBRUARY, 1947

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, D.C.

## Double Fatality in Pipe-Moving Accident

### New Job Training Manual Published in Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Rural Electric Line Construction Practices Manual is now available from the College Bookstore, Oklahoma A. & M. College, Stillwater, Okla. The price is one dollar plus nine cents postage. This manual was developed thru the cooperation of J. Perry Norris, State supervisor of trade and industrial education, Glenn Smith, head of the Department of Trade and Industrial Education at the college, and the Oklahoma Advisory Committee, whose chairman is R. E. Parks. The material was compiled by Joe B. Billingsley, State job training and safety supervisor, and W. Fred Heisler, Training Consultant for the Department of Trade and Industrial Education at Oklahoma A. and M.

(Continued on page 3)

### MEN DID NOT FOLLOW PLANNED PROCEDURE

A group of men started to pull a well pipe from a well and replace the valve on the bottom of the pipe. This pipe consisted of eight sections joined together with couplings. The total length of the pipe was approximately 35 feet. A blacksmith's anvil was placed near the point where the pipe came out of the well, and a 4 x 4 oak timber, 12 feet long, was placed over the anvil and attached to the pipe in order to obtain the necessary leverage to lift the pipe from the well. Two 24" pipe wrenches were provided for them to unjoint the pipe sections and take the pipe apart as it was raised.

The men, however, did not follow this planned procedure and attempted to raise the pipe without taking it apart. A 6900-volt line ran very close to the well. In fact, the distance from the perpendicular plane of the phase wire to the well was only 9' 7". The ground clearance to the phase wire was 27' 1". A black locust tree was situated between the 6900-volt line and the well.

The men jacked the pipe out of the well bore and had approximately 25' of it above the ground before it became top-heavy. At this time, one of the men ascended the tree and tied a rope in an attempt to hold the pipe away from the power line. The men below proceeded to raise the pipe, ten feet of which was still in the well. As soon as the bottom of the pipe cleared the well bore, the pipe got out of control and fell into the 6900-volt line. The man holding the pipe was

### OHIO CONFERENCE PROVES HELPFUL

The Ohio Trade and Industrial Section of the Department of Education sponsored a managers' training conference at Magnetic Springs, O., January 27 to January 31. The managers attended two days' sessions of this conference in two groups. Robert M. Reese, Supervisor of Trade and Industrial Education was in charge of the program. Ray DeForrest, Coordinator of Trade and Industrial Education, Cincinnati University, was the conference leader. C. A. High, job training and safety supervisor, assisted. A very interesting program covered

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued on page 2)

# THE REA LINEMAN

Vol. VII. No. 2

February, 1947

Published Monthly in the Interest of Safety  
for Employees of REA-financed Systems

*David A. Fleming, Editor*

---

## EDITORIAL COLUMN

### Hazards Along REA Lines

On another page in this issue of The Lineman is the account of a tragic accident which occurred when a well pipe adjacent to an REA line was pulled. This type of accident, and that which has happened when house movers have tried to move buildings under energized conductors, are occurring altogether too frequently. We believe that some method must be devised to remedy this situation. Undoubtedly, many wells, flag poles and other similar structures are located very close to co-op lines. It might be well, in patrolling the lines of a system, to make a record of such locations and then call on the tenant or landowner and point out to him the hazards involved in pulling the well or moving the pole or building. Such a procedure would make the individuals aware of the hazards and would undoubtedly prevent accidents such as we mentioned in the beginning of this article.

Rural house-moving companies, and individuals who do this type of work on a part-time basis also should be warned that it is hazardous to try to lift energized wires over buildings being moved. These warnings should be made in personal interviews whenever possible since written advice can too easily be disregarded. Publicity on these two types of accidents would also be very effective in the monthly news letter or other publications sent out to the members.

---

### It's Unanimous

#### Editorial

The job training and safety program in North Carolina has for some time had the enthusiastic support of all of the systems in the State. All 33 systems are paid-up members of the program and reports indicate that the managers are participating 100% in the meetings conducted by the State supervisor.

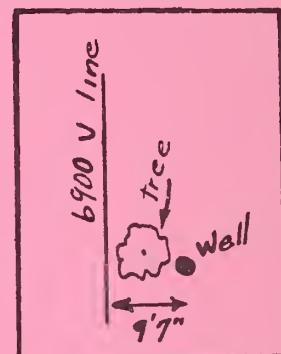
## NEW MEN TAKE OVER

The Oklahoma job training and safety program has hired Earl W. Zimmerman as job training and safety supervisor. He fills the position formerly held by Joe B. Billingsley who resigned. Mr. Zimmerman's address is Oklahoma A. and M. College, Stillwater, Okla.

C. L. Adcox resigned in Georgia and was replaced by W. G. Sanders, whose address is Hartwell, Ga.

---

### Double Fatality (continued)



electrocuted. The man in the tree fell head first into a 55-gallon steel drum,  $\frac{3}{4}$  full of water, at the base of the tree. He was immediately pulled out of the drum but he lived only for a few minutes. One of the crew broke the contact by pulling him away from the pipe and received severe electrical burns.

---

Successful job training and safety programs are not obtained merely by agreeing that they are good, furnishing the necessary money to participate and then allowing the program to proceed without the active interest and support of the men who are making it possible. We believe that the success of any job training and safety program will be measured in terms of how much interest management shows in the program.

The North Carolina Advisory Committee, which has done a fine job in maintaining interest in this program, consists of:

Manager R. R. Edwards, president; Line Foreman Ira Lee, vice-president; and Manager C. E. Viverette, secretary-treasurer. Also Board Members Z. C. Burton, U. B. Blalock and Balfour Dunn; Line Foremen Homer Stanley and M. A. Maxwell; and Manager D. B. Crow.

# Artificial Respiration Again Successful

Two linemen and a groundman were stenciling transformers in operation. One of the lineman went up the pole and belted off below a transformer. The groundman was preparing to send up a hot stick to help disconnect the transformer from the line. The second lineman had started up the pole. The first lineman's cap touched the riser from the transformer to the 6900-volt delta line. This man was grounded through a hand either to the ground on the transformer or the transformer hanger. He was rendered unconscious by the electrical shock and received severe burns on the right side of the head and on the fingers of his right hand. The second lineman successfully gave pole-top resuscitation.

## Editor's Comment

Eight linemen on REA-financed systems were resuscitated during 1946 by the application of artificial respiration. These men would not be alive today had their buddies not known how to proceed when the situation arose. Some

of these men were also resuscitated on the pole. We believe every line crew should practice artificial respiration regularly and that the new man should be given a demonstration of this procedure the first day he reports for work. We also believe that every REA lineman should enroll in a Red Cross first aid class and obtain a Red Cross first aid certificate.

Manager James Morrow of the South Crawford Rural Electric Co-op at Denison, Ia., is a firm believer in this practice. Morrow, his line foreman and bookkeeper hold Red Cross first aid instructor's cards. They are taking a refresher course again this year. Eight of the co-op's regular employees hold advanced Red Cross first aid cards and are taking the instructor's course this spring. All new employees will take the beginners first aid class in February and, if possible, will continue with the advanced instruction before the year is out. A thorough knowledge of first aid is so important that it should not be neglected.

## Job Manual (continued)

This manual covers the jobs which a groundman and construction lineman should know. It contains almost 500 illustrations and is written in a simple, understandable manner. Anyone interested in obtaining copies may do so by sending a check or money order to the College Bookstore.

The Oklahoma managers deserve a great deal of credit for producing this book. It was necessary that they agree to dispense with the services of Mr. Billingsley for a considerable length of time so that he might work with the training consultant to develop this text. This text will be of particular value for use in the G. I. training program. It will also be used for training all new men.

The Oklahoma Advisory Committee, who did so much to make this book possible, are:

Manager R. E. Parks, chairman; Manager Howard Crocker, vice-chairman; and Line Foreman Jack Steele, secretary-treasurer. Also Managers Gerald M. Goodwin and E. W. Cralle; Line Foremen Homer Shotts and Maurice Wilburn;

## Nebraska Sponsors Foremen's Conference

The Nebraska State Vocational Education Department conducted a Line Foremen's Training Conference January 27 and 28. The conference was held at Grand Island, Neb. Howard Gorham, State Supervisor of Trade and Industrial Education, was the conference leader. He was assisted by W. H. Abel, job training and safety supervisor, and Messrs. Kirkbride and Melchiorsen.

Foremen's training conferences are very important activities in the job training and safety program. Supervision plays a major role in the prevention of accidents and the overall efficiency of the system personnel. To obtain the maximum benefit from the job training and safety supervisor, it is necessary to have trained supervisory personnel on each system who can continue the job training and safety activities between visits of the State supervisor.

and Board Members T. H. Ketels and J. R. Qualls.

# DERE EDDITER,

I aint wrote you since the last time because I've been too busy helpin expand this electric business. I and Ben have dug a lot of holes since I started back in August. Ben says if I'm going to be a lineman I gotta learn how to do every job a lineman has to do good -- an' hole diggin' is one of them. Ben says that holes is the foundation of the line and if they aint right to start with the linemen building the line cant do a job because the whole line is no better than its foundation. There's more to diggin a hole than just diggin. They got to be in line and dug by enough around to take the pole and leave room to tamp the dirt and not too big and it's got to be just the proper depth for the particular pole that goes in it. The engineer leaves a little stick with all this dope on it. Ben says that the dirt that comes out of the hole is important too - the lineman needs it to put back in the hole. He says when I pile it up on weeds and trash it's hard to shovel back and the man filling the hole has to dig somewhere else to fill it and bank it. Sometimes they dont bother to fill the hole and bank the dirt up good around the pole and water soaks in around

the pole and it deturiates quicker. Im learning some teck-nickle words. Deturiates has got something to do with how long it lasts. Deturiates is what the engineer says but Ben says he just calls it 'rot quicker' and lets it go at that. He says it's like the girls in the office "perspire" on a hot day but us linemen just sweat.

I been aimen to get me a pair of leg irons and practice a little on the Q.T. but Ben says not to get antsy pantsy that'll come soon enough. But I gott to now, because one of the line crew said the other morning 'Hi clum-some, come on up and see me sometime'. It made me feel good all over just like I had clum a little and he had just found out about it. I aint clum none yet but I can hardly wait and that goes for pay day too.

Yours truly

I. M. Numan

Received just before going to press --

## TELEGRAM

Dere Editor:

Leg irons arrived Up pole.  
How do I get down? Urgent!  
I. M. Numan

### Ohio Conference (continued)

managers' responsibilities, cooperation, human relations and public relations.

The Ohio job training advisory committee approved the managers' training conference. It helped make arrangements for the Department of Trade and Industrial Education to sponsor the conference. A linemen's conference will be held some time in February.

States which have conducted managers' training conferences through their Departments of Trade and Industrial Education have strengthened materially their entire training program. Their contact with the vocational people has made them more aware of how trade and industrial education can aid in training their men and help eliminate accidents on their systems. More states are showing an interest in expanding their present program to include managers' and line foremen's conferences in addition to their regular program for training linemen.

